Morning Flags - January 27th 2022

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Date: Thu, 27 Jan 2022 15:03:54 +0000

Good morning sir,

Here are the issues we're tracking this morning. We received no questions on the AM call.

Irrelevant

2. Convoy (with Transport, PS)

https://globalnews.ca/news/8540245/ottawa-trucker-convoy-risks/
https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/police-urge-public-to-avoid-downtown-ottawa-during-trucker-convoy-protest-1.5755382

- Coverage of the 'Freedom Convoys' continues as truckers continue to make their way towards Ottawa.
- The Ottawa Police Services Board held a meeting yesterday to discuss the upcoming protests. Police Chief Peter Sloly commented that while the situation is still evolving, within the last 24 hours the OPS had received "a direct threat from a counter-protest source to the safety of our officers".
- Deputy Chief Steve Bell voiced concerns that "parallel groups" and counter-protesters could also turn, and that police are currently trying to reach out to both groups.
- Sloly's advice to people in Ottawa is to avoid the downtown core during the protests, particularly if travelling by car as there could be traffic delays.
- Per recent reports from the OPP just under 400 vehicles are in the west convoy – it departed Thunder Bay earlier this morning, heading towards Sioux St. Marie.
- During yesterday's press conference, the PM called the "fringe" views expressed so far "unacceptable" and that they "do not represent the views of Canadians".
- Erin O'Toole has largely avoided weighing in on the convoy thus far, but in a recent FB Live commented that "you can understand why there's some frustration and why people are protesting."
- Jagmeet Singh has had to speak out after his brother-in-law, Jodhveer Singh Dhaliwal, donated $13,000 to the convoy's GoFundMe. Singh said he "unequivocally" disapproves of his brother-in-law's decision.
- And just earlier this morning, while going into CPC national caucus, Pierre Poilievre became one of the first CPC MPs to confirm he would be attending Saturday's protest.

EP lines (*not to distribute outside of office*):

- Our government recognizes and respects that everyone in Canada has a right to safe and peaceful protest.

- Threatening acts of violence and inciting hatred, as we have seen from a select few in recent days, is unacceptable and does not reflect the views of the majority of Canadians.
- We condemn all such hateful and violent rhetoric in the strongest terms.
- As is common with any significant gathering with a potential impact on government operations, such as the annual Canada Day celebrations, law enforcement and security agencies across all levels of government are engaged and coordinated to ensure a safe event.

Public Safety lines:

- Our government will always support the right to peaceful protest in Canada – but we will also always condemn violence and threats.
- We aware of the ongoing protest coming to the nation's capital and are monitoring the situation closely.
- The Parliamentary Protective Service and local police will respond to any issues as necessary, and our national law enforcement and security agencies are continuously monitoring potential threats.

Transport lines:

- We know that the biggest threat to our supply chains is COVID-19.
- We also know that the best tool to fight this is vaccines; thanks to important collaboration with the industry we know majority of truckers are vaccinated.
- In regular contact with industry partners to ensure these measures are applied effectively and the flow of goods is maintained across the border.

If pressed – convoy/protests

- individuals have the right to safely and peacefully protest ; based on our extensive work with the industry we're confident about the high vaccine levels with the workforce , and that cross border trade will continue to move smoothly